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LB 833

take it from one side or the other, we are being hard on a class of school districts or necessarily creating a different set of beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. You've heard the opening on the motion to amend LB 833 with AM1850 offered by Senator Bromm. Open for discussion. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 833, LB 833, I believe, is a good bill. It's one that advanced from the...or had the support of the Education Committee and mine as well. I appreciate Senator Bromm bringing the issue of funding with this amendment. I don't, however, support the amendment. The bill as is, as he mentioned, would take the excellence in education monies, the less or equal 20 percent of the education part of the lottery money, and use it to complete distance education buildings or rooms, rather, in school systems for two years. The reason I don't support the change is, as Senator Bromm pointed out, the quality education grant, I've forgotten the acronym he used, but the quality education part of it is not an old program; it's been in place for two or three years now. There are a number of requirements or programs that a school system must embark on in order to qualify for this money. That process has really just gotten underway. And the representation has been made to schools that if you, the school system, participates or invests in these programs, develop in these programs, that this money will be available to you. And it's a per student payment and it's also prorated. In this past year the proration amounted to only 75 percent. This proposal would clearly reduce the amount of money available for that program and, of course, make the proration a smaller percentage. It would, I think, lead you in the direction of going back on what you had represented to the school systems. On the other hand, the funding that is currently proposed, I think there is no particular reason that any school system should expect they are going to get that money. That is grant money that is pretty much on a year-to-year basis. I don't think there would be a legitimate argument by any school system that, look, I had done these things that you suggested in the promise that I would receive this money, now the money is not there. So certainly in the case of honoring a commitment with the lottery funds, I